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in any event it is a peace move, and we are glad that it was made by the Emperor of Germany. It begins to look as if peace moves were to become fashionable among crowned heads and presidents of states. That is a kind of rivalry to which the peacemakers of the world would raise no objection.

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**Kuropatkin's Revelations.** It has been known all along that the war between Japan and Russia was brought on by Russian aggression in connection with the timber concessions on the Yalu river, and the alarm awakened thereby in Tokio lest the whole Japanese territory, after Korea, should ultimately fall under the power of Russia. But the full extent of this aggression, the cold, heartless, conscienceless character of the greed of certain Russians in high positions who were connected with it, have only just come to light. We print on another page an excellent editorial article taken from the London *Daily News*, which discusses this subject from the point of view of the revelations made by General Kuropatkin in the section of his "Suppressed Memoirs" published in *McClure's Magazine* last month and translated by George Kennan. We do not need to add any comment on what the *Daily News* says. We should, however, advise all our friends to get *McClure's* for September and read the whole section of the "Memoirs" there given. Inordinate greed and aggressive ambition have been the causes of many terrible wars in the past, but the pure, unmitigated selfishness of men, which rides rough-shod over others, never played a more conspicuous part in bringing on a conflict than in this case, if what Kuropatkin says of Bezobrazoff, Alexieff and others is to be taken at its face value.

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**Tolstoy at Eighty.** Tolstoy continues to be the greatest moral force in Russia. The reason is clear. He is a great man intellectually, but not greater than many others. His courage is of the highest type, but he is not braver than many of his fellow-countrymen. The secret of his moral power is that he bases himself wholly on moral forces, and leaves no place for the unreason of violence. The consequence is that he has made himself practically immune from violence, and from his home at Yasnaya Polyana he continues to throw over the whole of Russia and the world his marvelous influence in behalf of justice, human rights and genuine human love and brotherhood. An effort was made by the officials of both church and state in Russia to prevent any general observance of his eightieth birthday. But in spite of this attempt, not only private but public honors were bestowed upon him in various parts of the empire, and it is probable that in the secret of men's hearts, where influence works its way in spite of all obstacles, the honor

that was shown him that day was greater and more widespread than was ever before given to any Russian. He will yet conquer Russia and deliver her from the elaborate system of despotism and oppression against which he has so long and so courageously uttered his voice. The day is drawing near when the Russian desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.

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### News from the Field.

The fourth Italian National Peace Congress was held at San Marino September 1st to 5th.

The official report of the Munich Peace Congress of 1907 has been published in French, and copies may be had at the office of the American Peace Society at forty cents per copy. Add five cents for postage.

On the initiation of the Baroness Von Suttner and Signor E. T. Moneta an Austro-Italian Committee has just been formed to promote an *entente cordiale* between Italy and Austro-Hungary. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of both countries have expressed their warm approval and sent their felicitations to the initiators of the committee. The secretaries of the committee are, for Austria, A. H. Fried (5 Wiederhoferstrasse, Vienna IX\2), and for Italy Dr. E. Giretti (Bricherasio, Italy).

The membership of the Peace Society of Southern California (branch of the American Peace Society), founded last spring, has, under the efficient and enthusiastic labors of Robert C. Root, the secretary (Severance Building, Los Angeles), already risen to one hundred and twenty-four, and promises soon to become double or treble that number. Mr. Root attended the State Convention of County and City Superintendents at Lake Tahoe the 14th to 18th of September, where he was given by the State Superintendent every opportunity to meet the superintendents personally and to have a display of peace literature. Mr. Root has since visited San Francisco and Berkeley, where he has conferred with local friends of the cause as to the early establishment of a branch society there.

In its ninth annual report, published in July, the Auckland (New Zealand) Branch of the International Arbitration and Peace Association gives interesting information of its work the past year. In addition to its annual meeting it has held two public meetings. It has taken action against conscription and compulsory military service. Its resolution urging the neutralization of the Pacific, or such portion of it as might be agreed upon, has been sent to the peace societies in different countries, and has met with general concurrence. It has used its influence with the schools of New Zealand and with the clergy and Sunday schools of Auckland in behalf of the cause of peace. It has held an essay competition for school children, the subject being "Heroes of Peace." It was represented by a delegate at the London Peace Congress. It has received and distributed considerable quantities of literature. The society has been in communication with other organizations in New Zealand and elsewhere, and has done what it could with its slender

means to promote the further development of the peace movement, and to secure the active coöperation of those who are interested in the maintenance of peace but have not as yet taken any part in its advocacy.

### Brevities.

. . . Another important speech was made by Baron d'Estournelles de Constant in the French Senate on July 2 on the subject of armaments, in which he showed once more that even from the standpoint of effectual national defense the French government was making a grave mistake in adding big ships so rapidly to the navy.

. . . The president of the Danish Group of the Interparliamentary Union, Mr. N. Neergaard, has been appointed Minister of Finance in the Danish government.

. . . One of our California friends writes: "There has been considerable reaction shown in newspapers of California since the fleet went away, and I note many references to the cost and to the waste of it all. Before the fleet arrived there was none of this point of view. I like to think that my San Francisco friend was right, and that the splurge over the coming of the fleet was due to expectations of increase of business and a good time — 'to a pleasure-loving people.'"

. . . The *Christian Register* (Boston) says: "Every great navy, tuned up to the highest fighting pitch, is a challenge to all other strong nations to produce navies of equal capacity. The more navies we have prepared to go off at a touch, at the behest of an excitable nation, the greater the danger that war will break out."

. . . Augustine Jones of Newton Highlands, Mass., in a recent letter to the *Boston Advertiser*, calls attention to a most important utterance of Lafayette at the Fourth of July celebration in Paris in 1833, the year before he died. Finishing a speech in broken English, he said, in referring to the war of American Independence, in which he had taken part: "Public common sense — may it hereafter always be the arbiter of all difficulties." Commenting upon these memorable words, Mr. Jones says: "We ought to cherish and observe his closing benediction upon the United States. Settle your difficulties by 'public common sense,' and in arbitration and courts give the 'common sense' expression forever."

. . . Ex-Congressman Joseph A. Conry, of the ninth Massachusetts District, in seeking the Democratic nomination for Congress, condemns his opponent, John A. Keliher, the present Congressman from the District, because he voted against the bill to build four battleships. He asks him to explain to the men of Charlestown his attitude on the subject, declares that "increased naval appropriations would mean increased labor for Charlestown," and promises that, "if elected to Congress, the keel of a battleship will be laid in the Charlestown navy yard before the expiration of his (my) term of service." Mr. Keliher will have no difficulty in explaining his vote on the battleships to the men of Charlestown, who are sensible enough to know that what is bad for the country at large cannot in the long run be good for Charlestown, and Mr. Conry will doubtless be allowed to spend another Congressional term in reflection at home.

. . . At the Free Trade Congress in London, in August, Winston Churchill, President of the Board of Trade, said, among other things: "Whereas in war both parties lose, whoever wins in commerce, out of every peaceful transaction there is an advantage for both parties. Every transaction that takes place upon an equitable basis renders a fresh transaction possible. Every exchange that takes place between nations renders another exchange possible. If exchange is multiplied goodwill is increased, and there is an increased international security."

. . . The international conference on tuberculosis, which opened at Philadelphia on the 24th of September, was made up of experts from seventeen countries. The "white plague" slays its tens of thousands every year, and the coöperation of the different nations in the effort to abolish it is work of the highest order. But they will probably find it far more difficult to abolish this plague than to abolish war. The latter is an evil purely of men's creation, and whenever they will they can put an end to it.

. . . On the 15th of September, before the opening of the Interparliamentary Conference at Berlin, the American group of the Interparliamentary Union presented a peace flag to the German group, at a public meeting held in the Reichstag building. In making the presentation Mr. Bartholdt, president of the American group, said that the giving of the flag was a visible sign of the esteem and friendship of the American group, and a prophecy of lasting peace between the two countries. Mr. Eickhoff, chairman of the Reichstag delegation, in accepting the flag, gave utterance to similar feelings of goodwill.

. . . The *Commonweal*, formerly the *Australian Herald*, published at Melbourne, Australia, in its August issue expresses the hope that before long an interstate peace congress may be possible in Australia. Interest in the peace movement is developing not very rapidly but steadily and surely in Australia.

. . . A cable dispatch from Melbourne, on September 24, stated that the British Admiralty had given its approval to the scheme of the Australian Commonwealth for the formation of a flotilla of six torpedo-boat destroyers, nine submarines, and two depot ships as the nucleus of an Australian navy. The Parliament is expected to vote over six millions of dollars for the construction of this flotilla. The same dispatch says that "the idea of building up a local navy was given a great impetus by the recent visit of the American battlefleet." Of course it was!

. . . On September 15, Minister Wu Ting Fang called at the State Department and informed Acting Secretary Adee that the Chinese government had authorized him to sign a general arbitration treaty between the United States and China.

. . . The International Bureau of the Central American Republics was formally opened at Guatemala City on Saturday, the 26th of September. The purpose of the governments is, through the Bureau, to make uniform the civil, commercial and criminal legislation of the five signatory republics, to establish a uniform customs and monetary system, and to work for the general development of commerce and industry.